

In the Claims:

1. (Original) A fracturing fluid comprising a polar base, 0.1-5.0% of a mid-molecular weight polyacrylate, and an activator for ionizing said polyacrylate to a hygroscopic state.

2. (Currently Amended) A fracturing fluid comprising a polar base, 0.1-5.0% of a mid-molecular weight polyacrylate, and an activator for ionizing said polyacrylate to a hygroscopic state A fluid as claimed in claim 1, wherein said polyacrylate is a polyacrylic acid polymer cross linked with polyalkenyl ethers or di-vinyl glycol.

3. (Original) A fluid as claimed in claim 2, wherein said polyacrylate is present in particles of about 0.2 micron diameter.

4. (Original) A fluid as claimed in claim 3, wherein said fluid is provided with 0.1-5.0% (wt) of an activator to initiate hydration of said polyacrylate.

5. (Original) A fluid as claimed in claim 4, wherein said activator is selected from triethanolamine, NaOH, KOH and NH₄OH.

6. (Currently Amended) A fluid as claimed in claim 1 any one of claims 1 to 5, further including a breaker in an amount of 0.1-1.0% wt.

7. (Currently Amended) A fracturing fluid comprising a polar base, 0.1-5.0% of a mid-molecular weight polyacrylate, an activator for ionizing said polyacrylate to a hygroscopic state, and

a breaker A fluid as claimed in claim 6, wherein said breaker is encapsulated.

8. (Currently Amended) A fluid as claimed in claim 6 or

7, wherein said breaker is an organic or inorganic salt.

9. (Previously Amended) A fluid as claimed in claim 6, wherein said breaker is NaCl or Kcl.

10. (Currently Amended) A fluid as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~, wherein said polar base is selected from the groups including water, methanol, ethanol, propanol and isopropanol.

11. (Currently Amended) A fluid as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 10~~, emulsified with liquid CO₂ or N₂ and a surfactant.

12. (Original) A fluid as claimed in claim 11, emulsified with liquid CO₂ in an amount of 50-52% to 94-95% (volume).

13. (Currently Amended) A fluid as claimed in claim 11 ~~12~~, wherein said surfactant is an ethoxylated alkylphenol.

14. (Currently Amended) A fluid as claimed in claim 11 ~~8~~, containing up to [0-] 50% N₂ or CO₂.

15. (New) A fracturing fluid consisting essentially of a polar base, 0.1-5.0% of a mid-molecular weight polyacrylate, and an activator for ionizing said polyacrylate to a hygroscopic state.

16. (New) A fluid as claimed in claim 15, further including a breaker in an amount of 0.1-1.0% wt.

17. (New) A fluid as claimed in claim 16, wherein said breaker is an organic or inorganic salt.

18. (New) A fluid as claimed in claim 16, wherein said breaker is NaCl or Kcl.

19. (New) A fluid as claimed in claim 16, wherein said polar base is selected from the groups including water, methanol, ethanol, propanol and isopropanol.

20. (New) A fluid as claimed in claim 16, emulsified with liquid CO₂ or N₂ and a surfactant.